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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) The inflation assembly of claim 13 wherein at least a portion of the supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material comprises a plurality of cylindrical annular-shaped grains axially aligned end to end along the length of the tubular member.

3. (Previously Presented) The inflation assembly of claim 2 wherein the cylindrical annular-shaped grains comprise an inner surface at least partially coated with an ignition enhancing material.

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4. (Previously Presented) The inflation assembly of claim 2 wherein the cylindrical annular-shaped grains form an internal cavity longitudinally extending substantially through the supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material, the inflator additionally comprising an elongated ignition article extending within the internal cavity.

5. (Previously Presented) The inflation assembly of claim 13 additionally comprising a gas diffusible containment member within the elongated hollow tubular member and surrounding at least a portion of the supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material.

6. (Previously Presented) The inflation assembly of claim 5 wherein the gas diffusible containment member comprises an expanded metal.


7. (Previously Presented) An inflator comprising:
an elongated hollow tubular member containing an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reactable to produce a supply of gas, the tubular member having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 and including a plurality of longitudinally-spaced apart gas exit orifices wherethrough at least a portion of the

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supply of gas provided by reaction of the pyrotechnic gas generant material can be expelled from the tubular member,

wherein the elongated hollow tubular member is arcuate.

8. (Previously Presented) An inflation assembly comprising:



an inflator comprising an elongated hollow tubular member containing an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reactable to produce a supply of gas, the tubular member having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 and including a plurality of longitudinally-spaced apart gas exit orifices wherethrough at least a portion of the supply of gas provided by reaction of the pyrotechnic gas generant material can be expelled from the tubular member and


an elongated diffuser device secured adjacent the inflator for directing at least a portion of gas expelled from the inflator into an associated inflatable device.

9. (Original) The inflation assembly of claim 8 additionally comprising an associated inflatable device in inflation fluid communication with the inflator, wherein inflatable device comprises an inflatable curtain airbag cushion.

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Claim 10 (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The inflation assembly of claim 13 additionally comprising an associated inflatable device wherein the associated inflatable device comprises an inflatable curtain airbag cushion.



12. (Original) The inflation assembly of claim 11 wherein the elongated hollow tubular member is arcuate.

13. (Previously Presented) An inflation assembly comprising:
an inflator comprising an elongated hollow tubular member containing an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reactable to produce a supply of gas, the tubular member having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 and including a plurality of longitudinally-spaced apart gas exit orifices wherethrough at least a portion of the supply of gas provided by reaction of the pyrotechnic gas generant material can be expelled from the tubular member and

an elongated discharge treatment element having a length and secured with the inflator] tubular member at selected positions along the respective lengths of the inflator and the discharge treatment element length of the tubular member, the

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discharge treatment element effective to treat at least a portion of the gas expelled from the inflator tubular member contacting thereagainst and to deform to create spaced apart gas flow paths between the inflator tubular member and the treatment element, the gas flow paths spaced apart along the length of the tubular member and the length of the treatment element, the treatment element also directing at least a portion of gas expelled from the inflator tubular member into an associated inflatable device.

14. (Original) The inflation assembly of claim 13 additionally comprising a filter element interposed between the inflator and the discharge treatment element.

15. (Original) The inflation assembly of claim 13 additionally comprising an associated inflatable curtain airbag cushion inflatable device in inflation fluid communication with the inflator.

16. (Currently Amended) An inflation assembly comprising:
an elongated inflator adapted to provide a gas-containing discharge through selected locations spaced along the length of the inflator;

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an elongated discharge treatment element secured with the inflator at selected positions along the ~~respective lengths~~ length of the inflator and the length of the discharge treatment element, respectively, the discharge treatment element effective to treat at least a portion of the gas discharged from the inflator contacting thereagainst and to deform to create spaced apart gas flow paths between the inflator and the treatment element, the gas flow paths spaced apart along the ~~respective lengths~~ length of the inflator and the length of the treatment element, respectively; and

an inflatable curtain airbag cushion in inflation fluid communication with the inflator.

17. (Original) The inflation assembly of claim 16 wherein the inflator comprises an elongated hollow tubular member containing an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reactable to produce a supply of gas.


18. (Original) The inflation assembly of claim 17 wherein the elongated hollow tubular member is arcuate.

19. (Original) The inflation assembly of claim 16 wherein the inflator is contained within the inflatable curtain airbag cushion.

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Claim 20 (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method of inflating an inflatable device, the method comprising:

 reacting an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material within an elongated hollow tubular member of an inflator having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 to produce a supply of gas along the length of the tubular member, and

expelling at least a portion of the supply of gas through selected locations spaced along the length of the inflator,

wherein, subsequent to expulsion from the tubular member, the method additionally comprises:

treating at least a portion of supply of expelled gas to form a treated gas, the treating step including,

contacting expelled gas onto an elongated treatment element adjacent the inflator and

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deforming the treatment element to create spaced apart gas flow paths between the inflator and the treatment element, the gas flow paths spaced apart along the respective lengths of the inflator and the treatment element; and

directing the treated gas through the spaced apart gas flow paths into the inflatable device.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reacts substantially simultaneously.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the treated gas is directed through the spaced apart gas flow paths into an inflatable curtain airbag cushion inflatable device.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of inflating an inflatable device, the method comprising:

reacting an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material within an elongated hollow tubular member of an inflator having a length to diameter

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ratio greater than 20 to produce a supply of gas along the length of the tubular member, and

expelling at least a portion of the supply of gas through selected locations spaced along the length of the inflator,

wherein, prior to reaction of the pyrotechnic gas generant material, the hollow tubular member is bent to conform to an associated inflator-accepting site in an automotive vehicle in which the inflator is placed.

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25. (Previously Presented) The inflation assembly of claim 13 wherein the elongated hollow tubular member is arcuate.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reacts substantially simultaneously.
